Senior Foremen Stagnating in Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur.

1405 PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Senior Foremen belonging to leather wing of the Ordance Equipment Factory, Kanpur have been stagnating in one post for want of vacancies of Assistant Works Manager (Leather) for the last five years or more;

(b) whether representations have been made to DGOF for resolving the issue;

(c) whether no action has so far been taken to upgrade these Foremen;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what further action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) There are some Foremen (Leather) who have completed more than five years of service in the grade who have not yet been promoted more than five years of service in the grade who have not yet been promoted as Assistant Works Manager (Leather).

(b) to (e) While no specific representations have been received from Foremen (Lether), per se, representations have been received on behalf of the cadre of Foremen in general covering various disciplines. DGOF has been advised to frame a suitable proposal in this matter for consideration of the Government.

Release of Sri Lankan Smugglers

1406. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Press statement of the New Chief of Navy published in the Hindu dated the 16th November, 1990 and the clarification issued by the Ministry of External Affairs published in the Hindu dated the 17th November, 1990;

(b) whether Government have enquired about the allegations made by the Chief of Navy against the State Government of Tamil Nadu for receiving the Sri Lankan smugglers handed over by the Indian Navy to the State Policy; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and published in the Hindu of 17th November, 1990 was not concerning the reported statement made by the then Chief of Naval Staff designate (now CNS) at a Press Conference in Madras.

(b) and (c) The Indian Navy and the Coast Guard have been patrolling the Palk Bay/Palk Strait area intensively for the past several months in order to check the infiltration of militants from Srilanka as well as to curb other illegal activities in the area, including smuggling. Those apprehended by the Navy/Coast Guard are handed over to the concerned authorities for action in accordance with the law. Any decision to remand/release the apprehended persons rests with the concerned prosecuting authorities/Courts of law.

Danger of Cancer from Radiation

1407. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that new dangers are coming to light due to low-dose exposure to cancer radiation;

(b) whether Government are aware of a recent report of an Independent Analysis by world renowned Dr. John W. Gofman of Committee for Nuclear Responsibility. San Francisco, California, USA on the subject;

(c) whether Government propose to set up an independent scientific task force with concerned citizens to look into the question of use of nuclear energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?